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# San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 18, 2002**

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### **POPPERS, SPARKLERS & FIRECRACKERS! IT'S NO CHILD'S PLAY—SERIOUS INJURIES FOR LIFE!**

*Joint News Conference Alerts Parents, Deters Violators & Warns Sellers!*

**WHAT:** It happens every year, just weeks before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Dangerous fireworks are sold from seemingly safe venues such as the local candy store and ice cream truck. Fireworks are also brought in from other counties by visitors. Earlier this year, the City Attorney's Office resolved a criminal complaint against a candy store owner who sold firecrackers to an 8-year-old boy. The youngster lit one firecracker, but it did not ignite. Then, he put it in his pant's pocket with 19 other fireworks. Moments later, the firecrackers exploded and caused severe injuries to the boy. The San Diego Fire and Life Safety Services reminds residents that it's a crime to possess any kind of fireworks. Last year, small caps and poppers were added to the list of illegal fireworks in the county. The Metro Arson Strike Team will demonstrate the dangerous "fire-power" contained in each type of firework. Joint News Conference: San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn; UCSD Burn Center Clinical Director Dan Lozano, M.D.; San Diego Fire & Life Safety Services Deputy Fire Chief Tom Clark; and Metro Arson Strike Team Captain Jeff Carle.

**WHEN:** **Wednesday, June 19, 10 a.m.**

**WHERE:** **Regional Public Safety Training Facility at NTC Camp Nimitz, 4347 North Harbor Drive**

**Directions:** W/B Harbor Drive, Pass SD Int'l Airport, Turn into NTC, Left at Stop Sign & Go To Courtyard

**VISUALS:** **Pictures of burn survivor. Demonstration of illegal fireworks.**

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